

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION

ORDER OF PRIVATE REPRIMAND

The Commission issues this private reprimand to a candidate for judicial office for violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, SCR 4.300, Rule 4.1(A)(10) and Rule 4.1(A)(7).

The Commission received information during a preliminary investigation that the candidate used court resources in a campaign for judicial office. The Court email system was used by the candidate to transmit an email message to a recipient soliciting political support for the candidate in the upcoming election. Rule 4.1(A)(10) provides that “Except as permitted by law, or by Rules 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, a judge or a judicial candidate shall not use court staff, facilities, or other court resources in a campaign for judicial office.” The candidate acknowledged that the conduct in question occurred.

The Commission also received information that the candidate sent an email to the chair of a county political party seeking that individual’s support in the election. The email inferred that the candidate was seeking the political party’s endorsement. Rule 4.1(A)(7) provides that “Except as permitted by law, or by Rules 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4., a judge or judicial candidate shall not seek, accept, or use endorsements from a political organization.”

Therefore, for the foregoing conduct the judicial candidate is hereby privately reprimanded.

In issuing this order, the Commission duly considered that the judicial candidate had no prior infractions, fully cooperated with the Commission and pledged that the conduct will not be repeated.

This order is issued this 26th day of May, 2020.


R. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, CHAIR